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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

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By

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.**

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**WELLINGTON—URBAN DISTRICT.**

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**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1939.**

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## WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

### Statistics for the Year 1939.

Area (in Acres) .....	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1939 .....	6,674/6,895
Census Population, 1931 .....	7,132
No. of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1939 .....	2,050
Rateable Value—1st April, 1939 .....	£37,499
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March, 1939 ....	£146-13-7

\* Two estimates of Resident Population are given this year by the Registrar General—(a) 6,674 for the calculation of Birth Rates; and (b) 6,895 for the calculation of Death Rates, or incidence of Notifiable Diseases.

### Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total. M. F.</i>				
Live Births	Legitimate	87	48	39	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.48
	Illegitimate	3	3	0	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
		90	51	39	

Still Births—Total .... 3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ..... 32.25

Deaths—Total .... 114

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.5

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		<i>Rates per 1,000</i>	
		<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis .....	nil	nil
No. 30	Other Puerperal causes .....	nil	nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate,—; Illegitimate,—; Total Infant Deaths .....	Nil
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births .....	Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births .....	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	19
Measles (all ages) .....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	—

The Rates for the area can be compared with the Rates for England and Wales in the following table: the local crude death rate has been multiplied by the factor 0.75 supplied by the Registrar-General to make this rate strictly comparable with that for England and Wales:—



	<i>Eng. and Wales.</i>	<i>Wellington U.D.</i>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population .....	15.0	13.48
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....	0.59	0.44
Death Rate per 1,000 population.....	12.1	12.37
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	50.0	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:—		
(a) Puerperal Sepsis .....	0.74	Nil
(b) Other Causes .....	2.08	Nil
Total ....	2.82	Nil

### Causes of Death during 1939.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes .....	49	65	114
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	1	1	2
Other Tuberculous Disease .....	—	—	—
Syphilis .....	—	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis .....	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease .....	10	9	19
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ....	3	2	5
Heart Disease .....	8	22	30
Aneurysm .....	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	12	15	27
Bronchitis .....	2	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	—	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer .....	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	—	1	1
Other Diseases of the Liver, etc. ....	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	—	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	3	1	4
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Diseases .....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	—	—	—
Senility .....	2	3	5
Suicide .....	—	1	1
Other Violence .....	2	—	2
Other Defined Diseases .....	3	5	8
Causes Ill-defined or unknown .....	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, 2 years and over .....	—	—	—
Total ....	49	65	114

### Infant Mortality during 1939.

The following table gives the causes and ages at death of the infants who died under one year of age:—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
NIL										
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities are fully described in the Report for 1938. No changes in these have occurred since then.

This Area is one of the Reception Districts for Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme. A certain number of the Evacuees were found on arrival and afterwards to be suffering from contagious diseases such as Scabies, Impetigo and Verminous conditions. The milder cases were treated in their billets but the severer cases were accommodated either at the Sick-Bay in Wellington Urban District (sanctioned for this purpose and equipped for 13 beds by the Ministry of Health) or accommodation was found for them at Taunton Isolation Hospital or the Public Assistance Institutions in Taunton and Wellington. There has been no noticeable increase in the amount of Infectious Diseases in the district as the result of the Government Evacuation Scheme.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—This was fully described with a chemical analysis in the Report for 1938.

During the year an additional oil engine and plunger pumps have been installed at Payton. The engine is a Ruston & Hornsby horizontal crude oil of 17 B.H.P. and the pumps have a lifting capacity of 6,000 gallons per hour to a height of 178 yards of 5 inch main direct to the Rockwell Green towers. To install this engine and pumps the pump house had to be enlarged. The cost of the work was £479 10s. engine and pumps, £217 enlargement of pump house, £20 legal and loan charges, making a total of £716 10s.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The Sewage Works were reconstructed in 1935-36 and fully described in the Report for 1935, but since then it has been found that the Sludge Beds then installed do not function satisfactorily in winter owing to the rise of the subsoil water resulting in the sludge refusing to dry out to a fit state for removal.

The Council therefore decided to recondition the four old beds which were originally used for storm water, but under the 1935-1936 reconstruction scheme were disused, a stormwater tank having been constructed. The sludge is pumped on to these beds through a 3 inch rising main from the pump house to where the drainage water from the beds is concentrated in an existing chamber. As these beds are at a higher level than the ones before in use they are not subject to the disadvantages of the former and can be used during the winter months while the others are kept for use throughout the summer.

It was also decided to introduce electric lighting to the Attendant's House and to various salient points on the works, but owing to the war and the black-out this has been held in abeyance.

The works were prepared and carried out under the Engineers, Messrs. Parker Pearson and Ross Hooper, at a contract price of £492 8s. 8d., and the provisionally accepted tender for electric light was £53 16s. 11d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The following tabular statement is supplied by MR. A. J. HILL, under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

*Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—*

Dwelling-houses .....	92
Slaughter-houses .....	102
Premises where Food is sold or prepared .....	15
Bakehouses .....	9
Disinfections for Infectious Diseases .....	22
Factories and Workshops .....	12

*Number of Notices served during the year:—*

Informal Notices .....	63
Statutory Notices .....	0

*Results of Notices served:—*

Total Notices complied with .....	59
Notices standing over at the end of 1939 .....	4

*Conditions Remedied:—*

Defective Drainage .....	31
Structural Repairs executed .....	5
Defective Sanitary Fittings .....	53
Disinfections .....	22
Dampness abated .....	38
Provision of New Water Closets .....	14
Miscellaneous .....	23



SHOPS ACT 1912-1938.—31 Shops have been inspected during the year under the Sanitary Provisions of the Acts. Four Notices have been served, which have been complied with, requiring the repair of existing sanitary conveniences and the abatement of nuisances, and one additional sanitary convenience has been provided by informal action.

It has not been necessary for action to be taken regarding additional light and ventilation, but in one premises appropriate action was taken to provide suitable heating arrangements.

## HOUSING.

The particulars given below are in the form required annually by the Minister of Health:—

### I. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—*

(1)	(a)	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	92
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for this purpose ....	101
(2)	(a)	Number of Dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	27
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for this purpose ....	32
(3)		Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	10
(4)		Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	82

### II. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—*

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	67
---	----

### III. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	4
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners .....	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —	

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be	
-----	---	--

	remedied .....	—
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners .....	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	—
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	—
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	—
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	—
(2)	Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Tenement or Room having been rendered fit .....	—

IV. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—*

(a)	(1) Number of Dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	10
	(2) Number of Families dwelling therein .....	12
	(3) Number of Persons dwelling therein .....	71
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	—
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	3
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	17
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	—
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....	—

*Number of New Houses erected during the year:—*

(1)	By Local Authority:—	
	With State Assistance—	
	*(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 .....	36
	(b) Overcrowding .....	—
	(c) Other .....	—
	Without State Assistance—	
(2)	By other bodies or persons—	
	(a) With State Assistance .....	—
	(b) Without State Assistance .....	8

\* 36 Houses, consisting of 28 Houses and 8 Flats.

The position with regard to the number of Dwelling-houses built or in course of erection by the Council up to December 31st, 1939, is as follows:—

Built under the Act of 1919 .....	14
Built under the Act of 1924 .....	170
Built under the Act of 1936 .....	150

Up to the end of the year 1939, 96 houses had been demolished in connection with the Clearance Areas.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—The usual routine work with regard to safeguarding the Milk Supply has been carried out, including the systematic inspection of farms and dairies, the taking of samples of Milk for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. No legal action was necessary during the year.

16 Samples of Milk have been taken for bacteriological examination by the County Analyst, as follows:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested .....	—	—	—
Pasteurised .....	10	9	1
Accredited .....	3	2	1
Examined for tubercle bacilli	3	3	—
Totals ..	16	14	2

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—Under this Order the following Licences are in force in the District:—

Licences: Pasteurised Milk ..... 2  
the above being produced in the district. In addition, the Local Authority have issued the following Supplementary Licences for Milk vended in the district but not produced therein:—

Supplementary Licences: Pasteurised Milk ..... 1  
Accredited Milk ..... 1  
Tuberculin Tested Milk 1

The Tuberculosis Order, 1925:—No cows were slaughtered.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order supply the following information:—

No. of Producers on the Register ..... 25  
No. of Distributors as follows:—  
Distributors only ..... 14  
Distributors who are also Producers ..... 11



**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—The usual routine inspections of Meat and of Slaughter-houses were carried out under the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924-1935. No legal action was necessary to be taken during the year. There are seven Registered and one Licensed Slaughter-house in the district to which 102 visits of inspection were made. There were only a few minor matters where it was found that the Regulations had not been observed.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme under Part III of the Regulations of 1924 in force in the district.

**CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**—The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of Milk, no other foods were sent there for examination during the year.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—There are Four Bakehouses in the district and 9 inspections were made to them. The Bakehouses are generally well kept.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

# 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power ..	4	—	—
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power	11	1	—
† <b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	9	3	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. <b>Total</b>	24	4	—



## 2.— DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.  (5)
	Found.  (2)	Remedied.  (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector.  (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	1	1	—	—
Conveni- { unsuitable	5	5	—	—
ences (S. 7) { or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate	—	1	—	—
for sexes				
Other Offences .... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	—	—	—	—
Total ....	10	10	—	—

**Infectious Diseases, 1939.**

The following Table specifies the diseases, age distribution and the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified at Ages—Years.</i>								<i>No. Adm. to Hos-pital.</i>
	<i>At All Ages</i>	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up	
Scarlet Fever.....	14	—	4	8	2	—	—	—	14
Diphtheria .....	22	—	3	16	—	3	—	—	22
Cere. Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>37</b>

On October 23rd, 1939, the Ministry of Health issued Regulations known as the "Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939," making these two diseases notifiable on a prescribed form. Books of Notification Forms were sent to all Medical Practitioners residing in the Urban District, and in addition a copy of the Regulations.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1939 are given in the following form required by the Ministry of Health:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the district, 62 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

